

U. S. PREPARED TO COAL MINERS' STRIKE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—If the coal operators persist in an attitude of obstinacy and refuse to accept the government's plan for a commission to arbitrate the controversy with the miners, and if, as a result of that refusal, the miners quit work in any large numbers, the full power of the federal government will be used to prevent the coal operators from curtailing production. The Lever law, which has been used to enjoin the miners from striking, would be used against the operators.

But it is confidently hoped by the government that no such extreme course will be necessary. The interesting thing, however, is that at the department of justice a clear case against the operators has been built up since that if the operators maintain attitude of refusal to accept a commission of arbitration they would be guilty of having trapped the miners into going back to work and then declining to live up to the spirit of their pledges and written statements.

The operators declare the commission is too small and they have inquired whether the government would not enlarge the commission. The government will not agree to any such enlargement. It is necessary to do so would require another session of the miners and all the difficulties of the miners would be faced again. There is no objection on the part of the government to an increase in personnel if the three men designated on the commission should agree to such an enlargement, but at present the operators refuse to plan as submitted to the miners.

It is questionable whether the miners' strike would be profitable to the government. It is possible that a strike would only mean interminable delay.

In Other Hand. On the other hand, it is quite possible that the three men could select a number of advisers they choose, and that the president could be asked to appoint a commission to arbitrate the matter. It is possible that the judgment of voting power will remain in the hands of the miners.

John P. White, a former president of the United Mine Workers, and H. M. Frank, a former president of the National Coal Operators' Association, are expected to be one of the broadest judges in the country. There is a possibility that the government will appoint a commission to arbitrate the matter.

The government, through its spokesmen, contends that the operators have accepted the plan of a commission to arbitrate the matter. It is possible that the operators will not accept the plan.

Illustration. Few things have illustrated more clearly the attitude of the government in which the public can be imposed upon than the tactics pursued by the coal operators. Some persons have gone so far as to assert that they believed the operators were inciting the radical miners in Illinois.

An interesting sequel, however, is that the government is in a position to obtain an acceptance of its plan by the miners. It is known to go along with President Lewis and Secretary Green and bring about an agreement among the miners to accept the Palmer proposal. Now, however, that the government has the operators keep their pledge and accept the government's plan.

VILLA BAND KILLED. LAREDO, Tex., Dec. 25.—A column of rebels under command of Hipolito Villa has been "destroyed" near Marquez, Coahuila, by forces of Gen. Francisco Panfili. The rebels were taken by the federalists, the dispatches said.

Twenty-four hours to noon, Dec. 25: Hour, Dry Bulb, Wet Bulb, Humidity, 1 p.m. yes/day, 28 23 76, 4 a.m. today, 28 23 76, 10 p.m. today, 28 23 76. Sun sets today 4:55 p.m. Rise tomorrow 7:06 a.m. Moon sets 8:11 p.m. tonight. Precipitation, none.

Tennessee—Fair and warmer. Mississippi—Generally cloudy, probable local rains, somewhat warmer in north. Arkansas—Partly cloudy, rising temperature. Alabama—Fair, warmer. Kentucky—Fair and warmer. Louisiana—Cloudy, frost, weather clearing, slightly rising temperature. Oklahoma—Partly cloudy, warmer in east and south. East Texas—Cloudy, warmer in east and south. West Texas—Fair, little change in temperature. North Carolina—Fair, somewhat warmer. South Carolina—Fair, slightly warmer. Georgia—Fair, slightly warmer. Florida—Fair and warmer, probably light frost in interior of north.

Wilson Signs Edge Bill. WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—President Wilson signed today the Edge bill, authorizing the creation of financing American export trade. The measure was passed just before the Christmas recess of congress.

Sends Troops Home. DOUGLAS, Ariz., Dec. 25.—Venustiano Carranza, president of Mexico, in a dispatch to the United States, according to an autographed photograph, according to a statement made at the local Mexican consulate.

Year's Illness Fatal to Former Supreme Justice A. S. Buchanan

Judge A. S. Buchanan, until Jan. 1, 1918, justice of the supreme court of Tennessee, one of Memphis' best known citizens, died at his home, 1583 Peachtree Avenue, Thursday morning shortly after 7 o'clock following an illness which has extended over 12 months. Judge Buchanan was 82 years of age. His last arrangements have not been completed.

Friends of Judge Buchanan are of the opinion that strenuous work on the supreme bench, a duty which he conscientiously fulfilled over a period of more than seven years, resulted in his death.

Judge Buchanan is survived by his widow. One brother died several years ago. He has no other close relatives. For the past two years Judge Buchanan has devoted his time to legal matters of several local and Mississippi institutions and corporations. He resigned his position as supreme justice Jan. 1, 1918, and since has been legal counsel for the Quarry Bag and Paper Company, Mississippi Delta Planting Company, Delta Plantation Company and Delta Lumber Company. He has not engaged in general law practice.

While on the supreme bench Judge Buchanan decided many notable legal cases and cases. He was well known in the courts and in the community. He was admitted to the bar of Mississippi in 1887. He received his law degree from the University of Oxford in 1879 and was admitted to the bar of Mississippi in 1887. He received his law degree from the University of Oxford in 1879 and was admitted to the bar of Mississippi in 1887.

He was a member of the Tennessee Club, Memphis Country Club, Chamber of Commerce and a member of numerous other organizations. He was a Baptist.

World-Wide Conference Is Scheduled for January in Three Days' Meet. ATLANTIC CITY, Dec. 25. (Sp.)—Invitations have been sent to more than a thousand leaders in home and foreign missions, and other church people for the world-wide conference to be held at Atlantic City, Jan. 7 to 10 next, according to J. W. Alexander, director of the Southern division here. Those who attend will be representatives of the evangelical denominations and boards, numbering about a hundred, which are cooperating in interchurch world movement.

Return Date Given Officials' Approval. CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—Fixing of March 1 as the date on which the railroad rate increase will be put into effect was approved today by Hale Holden, regional director for the Central West, and by J. W. Alexander, regional director for the Northeast region. Director for the Northwest region, J. W. Alexander, took over the railroad Mr. Holden was president of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy and Mr. Alexander at the head of the Chicago & North Western railroad.

Exchange Building Lobby Decorated. What is perhaps the most attractive and novel decoration in downtown district renders the lobby of the Exchange building truly a thing of beauty. A large Christmas tree holds the central position towering above a large array of lights. The decorations were installed under the supervision of Irving C. Bratz, superintendent of the building.

Bulletin J. Klince Buys \$3 Dinners. Detective Jack Klince didn't want three suspects he had arrested to miss their Christmas turkey. So he went across the street to a box party at "Tony the Greek" and ordered three turkey dinners delivered to the prisoners. It cost Jack \$5, but he said: "What's three beans when Christmas comes?"

Mississippi Governor Guest of New Lyric. Mr. and Mrs. Lee M. Russell and party of friends will be the guests of C. W. Lewis at a box party at the New Lyric theater Christmas night. They will witness the performance of "Tea for Three" the holiday attraction. Numerous other parties beside those for the governor of Mississippi were the rule at Memphis theaters Christmas afternoon and night.

Guests for Xmas. Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Baskin have as their guests for the holidays, Miss Kate Hart, Washington; Mr. and Mrs. Tom White, Jackson; and Robert Hurt, Columbia.

Girl Punished As Liar; Suicide. NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Ella Peterson, 16 years old, shot and killed herself here because her mother punished her for telling lies. The girl was found in the bathroom of her home, lying through the head and with a note beside her which read: "You will never get me lying again."

Worth Year of Life's Bitterness To Know No Stocking Is Empty. Dear Goodfellows, Memphis, Tenn.: On my desk lies a copy of The News Scimitar, which tells me that you are going to play Santa Claus again to the kiddies, and so I close my eyes while my thoughts go back to the old dead days when the heart knew more of joy and less of sorrow, and I can hear once more that childish laughter o'er down the ghostly halls of memory and feel again the touch of baby lips and the cling of eager arms, as prattling tongues tell o'er and o'er again the longings of childhood that I must send you something, at least, to give you with my "God bless you, boys," and may the happiness that you leave in hearts where joy is most a stranger flood back upon you until your hearts are full of joy and your eyes are misty with the dew of love and thanksgiving.

The tie of GOODFELLOWSHIP never breaks, and seems to bind the hearts and thoughts, no matter where our paths may lead; so I am sending you my greeting, and won't you pass it on to the kiddies, and tell them that we are happy with them, and that when the sun sets beyond the crimson rim of day and the stars burn like fireflies in the meadows of heaven, that we will be listening with them for the jingling of magic bells and the ring of ghostly hoofs, and the whir of that old dream of the jolly old fellow who rides on the wings of dreams.

Listen, fellows! Tell them, too, that there will always be a Santa Claus, and that, even when the summer of youth drifts into the winter of old age, the heart will wander often back over the hills of childhood to find the real gold of happiness at the end of the rainbow of dreams.

It's worth a whole year of living, in the rush and bitterness of life, to know that at Christmas time one little stocking will not be empty, and that once childish faces will beam with joy, for what is more pitiful than the mute anguish of a baby face as trembling hands hold close an empty stocking to a breaking heart? Good luck and God bless you and the kiddies! WILL D. MUSE. Adairsville, Ga., Dec. 26, 1919.

Also Pre-war Credit Conditions Christmas Tide

Buying in Prodigality and Increased Good Cheer Seen in Memphis' First Peace Christmas Since 1913. Not a little Christmas, yet one peculiarly different from any Memphis ever witnessed. That, in spite, describes this Yuletide day in Memphis.

As for years ago and as they will for years to come, children awake Thursday morning to find that the jolly old fellow has filled the stockings and tucked each Dec. 24 had clambered down their chimneys and opened his bag of numerous traditional gifts. The holiday season also reminded of the Christmas of yore.

Wednesday afternoon saw the peak of the Christmas crowd come and pass so quickly as to be astounding when the buying of gifts. The larger department stores and firms along Main street had one and all reported the largest season of transactions and prosperity.

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Buying Is Lavish. So brisk was the buying for the past three days numerous Christmas supplies were exhausted. Jewelers early avail that they could not secure especially requested. Thursday morning heads of several department stores were seen in the streets, and the fact that they had run out of Christmas cards made also were unobtainable.

Special cars as early as 4 o'clock Thursday morning began their journey to the stores along the main street. The early morning worshippers, decorated in evergreens and festooned with holly, were seen in the streets. These religious edifices had been thronged probably more than in many days of the year.

Drugs Addicts Guests at Xmas Eve Party. NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—More than 1,000 drug addicts, about 50 per cent of whom were women, were guests at last night at a Christmas Eve party in the Narcotic clinic. Gifts were distributed and entertainment was provided by a volunteer drug addicts orchestra. The police club and boxers and ju-jitsu experts of the police department were also present.

Civil Guards Suffer. MADRID, Dec. 25.—The newspaper A B C says that of the civil guards who heretofore have been regarded as the backbone of the Spanish government, eight have been killed, wounded and 25 others attacked during the night of Dec. 24. The casualties are greater than were suffered during any year when the guards were fighting.

Widow Adopts Servants as Reward. NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Mrs. Francis B. Parkhurst, a wealthy widow, has adopted two boys and a girl as a reward for their faithful and attentive service during the past year. The adopted son and daughter are 22 and 20 years of age, respectively, and had been employed by her for several years.

New Has Day in Jail. LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 25.—Instead of knowing his fate today as both prosecution and defense declare, the defendant in the case which was tried yesterday in a charge of having murdered his sweetheart, Miss Freda Lee, Harry New passed Christmas in the county jail. Court was adjourned at noon yesterday until tomorrow.

Retreat Cut Off. GENOVA, Dec. 25.—The retreat of Gen. Benckese's volunteers has been completely severed, according to a dispatch from the city. The retreat, the dispatch adds, is to seek refuge in Rumania.

FORNANCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TAX LEVY

The first act of the incoming administration, when the new commissioners take office Jan. 1, will be to take immediate steps with the view to raising the salaries of the teachers in the city schools. An ordinance will be introduced at the first meeting increasing the city tax levy for schools during 1920 sufficiently to make possible the increases desired by the board of education, but which have been impossible under the present school levy in the city of 50 cents on the \$100.

The school board's latest estimate of the amount needed to make the raises in salaries contemplated, which is said to meet the approval also of the teachers themselves, is \$150,000. If this amount is added to the present school tax levy it will mean an increase in the school tax levy of about 15 cents.

The validity of the ordinance will be tested in a friendly suit and pressure brought to bear to get an early decision from the courts. It is expected that the ordinance will be upheld by the courts. The ordinance will be tested in a friendly suit and pressure brought to bear to get an early decision from the courts.

Service, Dynamic Christmas Theme of Bishop Gailor. He Pleads for Establishment of Love and Service in Remarkable Sermon at St. Mary's Cathedral. A stirring plea for the establishment of Christ's kingdom upon earth, for the carrying into men's lives of the Christ, was made by Bishop Gailor in his sermon at the 11 o'clock service at St. Mary's cathedral.

The church was thronged with worshippers. The Christmas spirit was typified by the evergreens and holly which decorated the sanctuary and the glittering candles upon the altar and behind the arch of evergreen surrounded the altar. The sermon was a masterpiece of the highest and most inspiring kind.

U. S. Capital Is Having Old-Time Peace Christmas. WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Relieved of the anxieties of war for the first time since Christmas, 1916, and with ideal Christmas weather prevailing, residents here are celebrating the Christmas day to enjoy a good old-fashioned Christmas. There were indications that the weather man's predictions of snowfall would be realized before the day was over. Activities were virtually unimpeded in all government departments.

A spirit of thanksgiving permeated the observance of the sacred day all over the city. The observance of the day was marked by the attention of soldiers and bluejackets to a result of the observance of the day. The observance of the day was marked by the attention of soldiers and bluejackets to a result of the observance of the day.

Life Revolutionized. Bishop Gailor took for his text "and things have become new." The bishop's sermon was a masterpiece of the highest and most inspiring kind. The bishop's sermon was a masterpiece of the highest and most inspiring kind.

Police Hunt Six Men Who Robbed Fur Store. CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—Police were today looking for six men who late last night held up a fur store on the South Side after a Christmas shopping and escape with fur valued at \$25,000, checks aggregating \$2,000 and \$500 in cash.

Dies as Daughter Reads. CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—Samuel Franklin, 80 years old, died last night while sitting in a chair while his daughter, Miss Elizabeth Franklin, read to him. Mr. Franklin was one of the oldest of the city's residents and a contemporary of Marshall Field, Marvin Huggitt and Levitz.

Plan New Remedies. PATER, Dec. 25. (Havas.)—The newspapers announce that the government has decided on new measures to remedy the shortage of coal. The measures include the rationing of coal and the distribution of coal to the most needy.

John D. Gives \$100,000 to Widows. NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—John D. Rockefeller has given \$100,000 to widows of the general education board. The gift is the largest ever made by the Rockefeller Foundation. The gift is the largest ever made by the Rockefeller Foundation.

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